SPEECH BY ALHAJI GANIYU AKIODE SEMIU, FCA
ON HIS INVESTITURE AS THE 14TH CHAIRMAN OF ICAN OTA & DISTRICT SOCIETY

The 61st President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, Mallam Haruna Yahaya mni, Ph.D. FCA

Members of ICAN Governing Council

The Olota of Ota, Oba (Professor) Adeyemi Abdul Kabir Obalanlenge

The Registrar / Chief Executive of ICAN, Dr Lanre Olasunkanmi FCA

All ICAN Zonal Executives

The Immediate Past Chairman of Ota & District Society of ICAN, Mallam Isiaka Olajide Abiodun FCA

Members of the Body of Past Chairmen of Ota & District Society of ICAN

Members of the Executive Council of Ota & District Society of ICAN

Distinguished Members of OTA & District Society of ICAN

My darling and lovely wives

Invited guests

Gentlemen of the Press

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I give all glory and thanks to God Almighty for His protection, guidance, and countless blessings throughout these years of value-added and impactful service in the accounting profession. It is with great joy and a deep sense of honour that I welcome you, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, to my investiture as the 14th Chairman of this esteemed District.

Allow me to begin by expressing heartfelt gratitude to the people through whom God has made this day possible. I sincerely thank the founding fathers of this District, all our past Chairmen, the current and former Coordinators, our respected Patrons, and Elders. Your tireless work in building upon the strong foundation laid over 13 years ago has brought about the successes we celebrate today. Your leadership, dedication, and vision are truly commendable. Thank you all.

A New Responsibility Begins

Dear guests, while we enjoy the glamour of this celebration, I am keenly aware of the great responsibility that begins immediately. The next twelve months present a call to service—a mandate to guide the affairs of this District with commitment and purpose. My team and I are prepared to advance the performance and scorecard of ICAN Ota & District Society. Together, we shall move this District forward.

Acceptance

It is with a grateful heart, profound humility, and a deep sense of responsibility that I, Alhaji Ganiyu Akiode Semiu, FCA, graciously accept my election and investiture as the 14th Chairman of this great and ever-growing ICAN Ota & District Society, along with the inauguration of the 2025/2026 Executive Council.

I am reminded that *a tree does not make a forest*. Therefore, I respectfully request your continuous prayers, moral guidance, and both financial and emotional support. This administration will be inclusive—our success depends on the involvement of all stakeholders. Let us work together to take this District to greater heights.

Membership Drive: Welfare and Development

Our administration will not abandon the legacy and standard activities already established in this District. However, we will critically review and enhance them for greater efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

A major focus will be on **training and retraining**, especially in the areas of **entrepreneurship** and **job creation**. We will prioritize health checks and adopt a **work-life balance approach** that fosters bonding, collaboration, and the free flow of knowledge sharing through regular social gatherings and structured training programs. Also, we intend to harness modern technology to better manage our operations.

Land and Building Project

It is no longer news that we have acquired three plots of land for the ICAN Building in Ota. Though preliminary work has begun, the time has come to mobilize all resources toward laying the foundation and constructing a permanent secretariat for our District.

This project may appear challenging, but with unity, commitment, and teamwork, we shall succeed. I urge our distinguished guests and members to support this laudable project wholeheartedly.

Catch Them Young Program

I commend my predecessors for their success in implementing the Catch Them Young initiative. To consolidate these gains, we will continue recognizing and awarding students in tertiary institutions within Ado/Odo-Ota and its environs who qualify as Chartered Accountants before graduation.

Also, we will reach out to parents and guardians of students in public and private schools to encourage their wards to pursue the accounting profession early, thereby strengthening the pipeline of future professionals.

National and Zonal Conferences

The Annual Accountants' Conference, scheduled for October 2025 in Abuja, is a significant event. We will actively engage our members and the Body of Past Chairmen to develop strategies—within our By-laws—to encourage maximum attendance.

Furthermore, our District is stepping into a leadership role within the **Western Zone**. I wish to acknowledge and appreciate the unwavering contributions of our representatives, especially *Pastor Olufela Sokenu,* the late *Pastor Abayomi Oke* and Alhaji Adeyinka Badmus at the Zonal Executive level.

With humility, I will soon assume the prestigious position of **Western Zone Chairman**, and I pray for God's guidance to build upon the legacies of those before me. I call upon all distinguished members of this District to gear up and participate actively in the upcoming Western Zone Conference.

Conclusion and Acknowledgement

I wholeheartedly solicit the support, cooperation, and understanding of the Executive Council, the Body of Past Chairmen, and all professional colleagues for the tasks ahead. I am persuaded that as a team with clear unity of purposes; we can overcome all odds and move this district and accountancy profession to another enviable position. It is my utmost desire and prayer that at the end of this chairmanship year, I will pass on to my successor a banner without stain.

On this note, I want to say a very big thank you to our special guest, the Olota of Ota, Oba Professor Adeyemi Abul-Kabir Obalanlege, Kabiyesi. May your reign continue to bring brightness and great achievements to Ota and Aworiland in general. To our amiable mother Yeye Gbemi Soyemi Beecroft, you are wonderful. And to all our dignitaries and distinguished guests, my professional colleagues…thank you for your presence, contributions and supports. God bless you.

To my families, friends and associates…Thank you for your understanding, supports, love and care.

And my lovely and beautiful wives, Alhaja Mariam Kehinde Semiu and Alhaja Fausat Remilekun Semiu, you are wonderful ladies, for your understanding, care and love, I say a very big thank you. My adorable children, I am very proud of you, thank you so much.

To all of you, man and woman, young and old; home and abroad, ladies and gentlemen, that contributed morally and/ or financially to the success of this occasion…. thank you, God bless you all.

I love you all!!!

Alhaji Ganiyu Akiode Semiu (GAS), AAT, HND, ACTI, EMBA, FCA.

EDUCATION

He had his early education at Local Government Primary School II, Sango-Ota from 1977 to 1983. He was appointed as the Health Prefect of the school between 1982 and 1983. He attended the famous Sango-Ota High School, Sango-Ota between 1983 and 1988. He was appointed the school's Senior Prefect (Senior Boy) during 1987 to 1988 and obtained the West African School Certificate in December 1988.

For lack of finances, he started his post-secondary school education with the ICAN/ Accounting Technicians Scheme and become a holder of AAT certificate in 1990. Mr. GAS as he is popular called, holds a Higher National Diploma, Upper Credit in Accountancy, from Ondo State Polytechnic (now Rufus Giwa Polyethnic), Owo in 1999; the same year he qualified as an Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria. He joined the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria in 2006. And in 2014 obtained Executive Master of Business Administration from one of the best Universities in Africa, the University of Ghana. He became a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria in 2021. Alhaji GAS is an experienced, seasoned and accomplished Chartered Accountant, Tax and Business Consultant.

WORK HISTORY

He has worked in several organizations arranged as follows:

1990 – 1996 Accounting Officer: Ojokoro (Ikeja) Co-operative Multi-purpose Agricultural Society Limited (Ojokoro CAMS), Oko-Oba, Agege, Lagos

1996 - 1999 Senior Accounts Officer: Nycil Limited, Ota, Ogun State

1999 - 2000 Audit supervisor: Olatunde Kaka & Co. (Chartered Accountants), Agege, Lagos

2000 - 2003 Senior Audit Supervisor: J A A ADENIYI & Co. (Chartered Accountants), Surulere, Lagos

2004 - 2006 Audit Senior: ERNST & YOUNG, Lagos

2006 - 2008 Internal Controls and Sox Compliance Supervisor: Transocean, Lagos

2008 – 2014 Country Controller: Transocean, Lagos, Cameroon and Ghana (at different times during years 2008 – 2014)

2014 till date Managing Partner: Akiode Semiu & Co. (Chartered Accountants), situated at 187, Iganmode Road, Ota, Ogun State.

SERVICE TO THE INSTITUTE

1995 - 2000

Alhaji GAS was a member of the pioneer Executive Committee of ICAN/AAT (now AATWA) in 1995 where he held several positions in the Committee until 1999-2000 ICAN Presidential year. He served as the Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee of ICAN/AAT (now AATWA), the highest position any ICAN/ATS holder could aspire to be in the management structure of the Institute during 1999-2000 ICAN Presidential year.

2001 - 2003

Member, Public Practice Committee

2016 to date

Professional Examinations Assessor

Professional Examinations Invigilator: At both the Institute's Professional and Accounting Technicians Scheme West Africa Examinations

2023 – 2025

Member, ICAN District Societies' Committee

2025

Member, Central Planning Committee for the 19th Western Zonal Conference (IKEJA 2025)

Member, 2025 Zonal Retreat Planning Committee

SERVICE TO ICAN OTA & DISTRICT SOCIETY

Alhaji GAS joined the Executive Committee of the ICAN/ Ota & District Society in 2018 as Ex-Officio II. And he held the following positions in the executive committee from 2018 until he was elected the Chairman of the District on May 17, 2025:

2018 – 2019: Ex-Officio II

2019 – 2020: Assistant General Secretary

2020 – 2021: Technical Secretary

2021 – 2022: Social Secretary

2022 – 2023: Treasurer

2023 – 2024: General Secretary

2024 – 2025: Vice Chairman

Ganiyu is a member of the Building Project Committee since inception in 2022.

LEADERSHIP ROLES OUTSIDE THE INSTITUTE AND HIS PROFESSION

1. 1982-1983, Health Prefect, Local Government Primary School II
2. 1987-1988, Senior Prefect, Sango-Ota High School
3. 2010 to date, Vice President, Muslim Elites Forum, Ota
4. 2012-2018, President, Progressive Social Club'99, Ota
5. 2020 to date, Chairman, Sango Ota High School Old Students Association '88 Set
6. 2023 to date, Financial Secretary, Cycle of ICONs Social Club, Ota
7. 2023 to date, Vice President II, Sango Ota High School Old Students Association Central Body
8. 2024 to date, Vice President (Agriculture), Otaparapo Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture

FAMILY

Alhaji Ganiyu Akiode Semiu is happily married and blessed with wonderful children.

HOBBIES

His hobbies include dancing, playing golf and travelling.